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United States Southern Command

Fact Sheet



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Situation Report for Media: Multinational Interim Force – Haiti

MIAMI – Following are significant events and activities of the Multinational Interim Force – Haiti (MIF-H) and associated U.S. agencies during the last 24 hours:

- **Disarmament Operations:** This morning shortly at 5 a.m., Haitian National Police (HNP) supported by French Military and Gendarmerie and U.S. Marines from the MIF-H conducted a search of a building on John Paul II Ave, where intelligence indicated a possible illegal weapons cache.
 - The combined force established a security perimeter, knocked on the entrance to request entry permission, and after receiving no response, entered.
 - They discovered the building was occupied; One of the occupants voluntarily assisted in the search.
 - No persons were detained or injured, no weapons were found.
 - Property damage was limited to a cut lock, which was replaced.
- **Security Assessments:**
 - The MIF-H continues visits throughout Haiti conducting security assessments and providing security assistance to Haitian government officials.
- **Humanitarian Aid:**
 - MIF-H personnel and humanitarian organizations continue conducting assessments of the humanitarian aid situation. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has a fact sheet detailing some of these assessments, titled *Haiti – Complex Emergency* at: <http://www.usaid.gov/haiti>
- **Stability Operations:** MIF-H Officials and representatives of other U.S. Government Agencies continue to coordinate with Haitian authorities to restore stability and the rule of law.
 - Commercial activities are increasing as are pedestrian and vehicle traffic
 - Garbage collection and street cleanups, although still sporadic, have resumed.
 - HNP officials are using local media to urge people to refrain from carrying arms until new permitting processes can be implemented.
 - Presence patrols continue activities in support of disarmament and to protect Haitians from acts of violence.

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- **Pro-Aristide Protest:**
 - HNP used tear gas and fired warning shots in the air to break up a protest by supporters of the former president in the vicinity of the presidential palace, after the crowd began to break windows and inflict other property damage. MIF-H personnel were not involved in the incident.
- **Force Statistics:**
 - MIF-H currently consists of nearly 2,550 persons, including about 1,650 U.S., more than 500 French (not including about 300 French Naval personnel in Caribbean Waters,) about 325 Chileans, and nearly 70 Canadians.
 - U.S. military airlift in support of the MIF-H total nearly 80 flights, to date, carrying more than 1650 passengers and nearly 2000 tons of cargo.
- **DHS Activities:**
 - **U.S. Coast Support of MIF-H:** Yesterday, two Coast Guard units began conducting operations in the vicinity of Port-au-Prince to facilitate a return to normal commercial and humanitarian shipping operations in the city's port and support the MIF-H stabilization effort. The units are:
 - A detachment of Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team 91104, based in Galveston, Texas, conducting port security operations
 - Coast Guard Cutter Cypress; a 225-foot buoy tender home ported in Mobile, Ala., improving the navigational system in the port with improved aids to navigation.
 - Today, MSST 91104, along with the cutters *Diligence*, *Escanaba* and *Kodiak Island* provided security escort to the Military Sealift Command ship, *Flickertail State*, delivering equipment and supplies to MIF-H.
- Department of Homeland Security's Task Force Southeast (HSTF-SE) continues migration interdiction and rescue patrolling, more details at:
<http://www.piersystem.com/external/index.cfm?cid=698>

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